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Contains chapters on the powers of Congress relating to taxation and taxes; the limitation of commerce; the Sherman act; trade regulations and the Clayton act; federal police power; interstate commerce; the national conservation policy; business protection and regulation by the state; relation of the state to labor, health, charities and corrections, highways, and finances.

*Check list of annual reports and other current publications issued by or under the authority of the state of New Jersey.* (Trenton, N. J.: John P. Dullard, State Librarian. July 1, 1915. Pp. 12.)

*Commerce of Rhode Island, 1726-1800.* Vol. II. 1775-1800. (Boston: Mass. Hist. Soc. 1915. Pp. 501. )

To be reviewed.

*British India. With notes on Ceylon, Afghanistan, and Tibet.* Special consular reports, no. 72. By H. D. BAKER and others. (Washington: Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. 1915. Pp. 638.)

*A list of books on the history of industry and industrial arts.* Prepared by A. G. S. JOSEPHSON. (Chicago: The John Crerar Library. January, 1915. Pp. 486. 50c.)

Not a bibliography, but a list of the histories of industry in the John Crerar Library.

*The Merchant's Association of New York year book: 1915.* (New York: Merchants' Assoc. 1915. Pp. 240.)

*The new declaration of independence; or The downfall of financial slavery, explaining in detail the complete mastery of the money power by the common people and the regaining of American independence and permanent prosperity, as provided for in the platform of the national capital and labor party.* (Fresno, Cal.: Herald Print. 1915. Pp. 40. \$1.)

## Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, and Fisheries

*Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota.* By EDWARD VAN DYKE ROBINSON. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 1915. Pp. v, 306. \$1.50.)

Patient research is required in the collection of materials for the historical treatment of the economics of agriculture in this country, although for only one state. The information is often hidden in obscure places and is scattered throughout publications of a wide diversity of contents. This volume makes the beginning of an agricultural history within state limits which should be extended to other states, and the author's performance is so scholarly and thorough that it may be regarded as a model of plan and arrangement of details.

The treatment begins with the physical data of agriculture and with the meteorology of the state, both of which are fundamental

to the subject and must ultimately determine the agricultural results in large degree. Following an account of the early explorations, is a narrative of the permanent settlements and of the development of pioneer agriculture, ending, for statistical convenience, with 1860. One-crop farming soon followed and this was devoted to wheat because of suitability to the climate, the fertility of the virgin soil, the agricultural machinery adapted to this crop, the facilities of transportation, and the mechanism of marketing, all of which made this a large cash crop, easily produced and sold.

About 1870 mixed farming began to appear, with diversification of markets and the observed advantages of a more varied and independent production on each farm. This tendency was not discredited, but only temporarily arrested by the reaction towards wheat farming in the last decade of the nineteenth century, after which agricultural changes and diversification were resumed and continued along inevitable lines. It must appear to one who studies agriculture historically that it has successive phases, varying in details according to natural environment and artificial conditions, but fundamentally constant in each phase. The author of this volume clearly indicates the steps taken by agriculture in Minnesota from its primitive simple form to the much more elaborate components of recent years, with diversification and rotation of crops, the keeping of farm animals, the growth of dairying, and efforts to conserve and promote the fertility of the soil. Ultimately, this last object must be supreme.

It was supposed in early years that Minnesota could not be self supporting in agriculture, but it grew to be the chief wheat-producing state of the Union, at one time, and is now prominent among agricultural giants. It received an extension of dairying from Wisconsin and Iowa; from an exclusive spring-wheat crop it has changed largely to winter wheat in the southern part of the state; corn production has continuously advanced northward to the surprise of every one; potatoes, oats, barley, and other crops have participated in the northward movement; and varied farming, necessitating an intelligent rotation of crops, has developed with accelerated speed.

The author's summary chapter is an admirable piece of work in practical agricultural economics. It contains one important assertion, however, that has never been substantiated, although popularly current since about five years ago—that "population of late has increased much faster than the total crop of food stuffs."

This belief was originally based on a hasty and superficial newspaper observation of rising prices, a diminishing per capita production of meat, a low crop production in 1911, and a scant vegetable production for a year or two. The per capita index number of the United States Department of Agriculture for 10 principal crops, weighted and combined, shows an unbroken increase by 10-year periods from 81.8 in 1866-1875 to 108.6 in 1906-1915. The inclusion of cotton and tobacco does not invalidate the import of these numbers that crop food is increasing per capita.

Another intrusion into economic history is the advice that state agricultural statistics should be collected by assessors of taxes. An experience of many years with such "statistics" justifies their suspicion, although they may be made useful if a percentage of error can be established. Again, statistical criticism is offered which does not seem to take account of the fact that the agricultural census of 1900 was one of exaggeration and that of 1910 was one of deficiency, owing to opposite office policies of editing and revising the schedules containing defective returns by the enumerators.

A mere narrative of facts, without interrelating them, would have been weak and dull, but the author has well understood the intellectual requirements of his subject; and he has constantly perceived facts and groups of facts as causes and has indicated the results. The plan of such a work as this may not admit the inclusion of a large treatment of technical agriculture, but the fundamental principles of such agriculture should be observed and these are recognized as the author proceeds from one historic phase to the next. The early "laws" of agricultural economics were derived mostly from static agriculture; a study of dynamic agriculture, such as this one, affords materials, with skilful arrangement and interpretation, for a much more intelligent understanding of the subject.

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*Studies in the Land Problem in Texas.* By members of the Texas Applied Economics Club. Edited by LEWIS H. HANEY. Bulletin of the University of Texas, No. 39. (Austin, Tex.: University of Texas. 1915. Pp. 179.)

This is the fourth volume in a series prepared by students of economics at the University of Texas. The land problem in its